

Captain A. J. Kopacz, USN Chief of Staff

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Captain Kopacz enlisted in the Navy in 1961. He served in the submarine force aboard USS ENTEMEDOR (SS 340) and USS THOMAS JEFFERSON (SSBN 618) Gold Crew until 1968. Captain Kopacz received his commission through the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program at North Carolina State University where he earned an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering.

After commissioning in 1972, Captain Kopacz reported to USS VOGE (DE 1047) where he served as Navy Tactical Data Systems Officer, Electronic Material Officer, and Combat Information Center (CIC) Officer. Following this tour, Captain Kopacz served as Commissioning CIC Officer aboard USS PAUL F. FOSTER (DD 964), Commissioning Weapons Officer aboard USS O'BRIEN (DD 975), and Combat Systems Officer for Commander, Destroyer Squadron FIVE. Subsequently, he attended Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Following graduate school, Captain Kopacz served as Commissioning Executive Officer aboard USS FORD (FFG 54) and then at the Pentagon on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research Engineering and Systems in the area of Space, Command and Control, earning a subspecialty in Command and Control Acquisition. His next at sea assignments included command of USS RODNEY M. DAVIS (FFG 60) and USS CURTS (FFG 38). Captain Kopacz is a 1993 graduate of the National War College. Following his graduation, he served on the staff of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-8, Force Structure, Resources, Assessments and Requirements. His most recent tour was commanding officer of USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52). He presently serves as the Chief of Staff for Commander THIRD Fleet, embarked in USS CORONADO (AGF 11), which is homeported in San Diego, California.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Navy Expeditionary Medal.

Captain Kopacz is married to the former Ann Eloise Karnowski of Bryan, Texas.



Vice Admiral D. V. McGinn, USN Commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet

Vice Admiral McGinn is a native of Attleboro, Massachusetts and a 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. A designated naval aviator, test pilot and national security strategist, Vice Admiral McGinn has served in a broad range of operational, staff and command billets.

Operational tours at sea include two combat deployments aboard USS RANGER (CV 61) with Attack Squadron 113 as Landing Signal Officer and Weapons Officer. He served as Operations and Maintenance Officer in Attack Squadron 146 aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) and Executive Officer of USS CORAL SEA (CV 43).

Shore and staff assignments include Air Warfare Officer at VX-5, China Lake, California and Chief Test Pilot, Strike Directorate, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland. He attended the Naval War College, the Program for Senior Officials in National Security at Harvard University and served as a Chief of Naval Operations Fellow on the Strategic Studies Group. His first Flag Officer assignment was as Chief, Information Systems and Chief Negotiator, Allied Command Europe (Restructuring) at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe in Casteau, Belgium.

Command experience includes tours as Commanding Officer of Light Attack Weapons School, Attack Squadron 27 during two deployments aboard USS CORAL SEA (CV 43), F/A-18 Replacement Air Group, Strike Fighter Squadron 125 and the fleet replenishment oiler USS WICHITA (AOR 1). From 1991 to 1993, he served as the last Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS RANGER (CV 61), making an extended Western Pacific and Indian Ocean deployment. In 1995 Vice Admiral McGinn served as Commander, Carrier Group ONE, responsible for operational training and combat readiness of all Pacific Fleet Carrier Battle Groups.

In January 1996, Vice Admiral McGinn was assigned as Director, Air Warfare Division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. In August 1998, Vice Admiral McGinn received orders to become the twentieth Commander of the U.S. Third Fleet.

Vice Admiral McGinn's personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (4 awards), Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal and the Strike Flight Air Medal. Vice Admiral McGinn is married to the former Kelly Harris of Leonardtown, Maryland. They have a daughter, Susan and three sons: John, David and Daniel.





Admiral Halsey's personal flag was the first American flag to be flown over the Japanese homeland, hoisted in Yokosuka, Japan, on 30 August 1945. Today, Admiral Halsey's uniform and personal flag are displayed in the Flag Mess aboard the THIRD Fleet command ship, USS CORONADO (AGF 11).



United States THIRD Fleet

THIRD Fleet was commissioned on March 15, 1943, under the command of Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey. Many decisive naval operations were planned and directed by THIRD Fleet. Embarked aboard his flagship USS MISSOURI (BB 63), Admiral Halsey led his fleet into Tokyo Bay on August 29, 1945. World War II ended September 2 when surrender documents were signed aboard the wooden decks of MISSOURI.

THIRD Fleet was recommissioned in 1973 at Ford Island, Hawaii, after being inactive since the end of World War II. In 1986, Commander THIRD Fleet shifted his flag from headquarters ashore to resume status as an afloat command aboard USS CORONADO (AGF 11), now homeported in San Diego, California.

Today, THIRD Fleet directs naval operations in the Eastern and Northern Pacific Ocean, an area of 50 million square miles. Within this region, major sea lines of communication are critical to the economic health of the United States and other Pacific rim nations. In times of crisis or combat, THIRD Fleet is responsible for the defense of the western approaches to the United States, including Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Additionally, THIRD Fleet maintains a ready posture, able to assume the role of the naval component commander to the U.S. Central Command in the Arabian Gulf.

To maintain proficiency in joint and combined operations, THIRD Fleet regularly operates with other U.S. military services and the naval forces of Pacific nations. Joint Task Force and Rim of the Pacific exercises test a full range of tactics and communication capabilities. THIRD Fleet exercises are designed to train naval forces for forward deployed operations overseas. On an average day, 75 ships, 300 aircraft and 70,000 Sailors are operating under THIRD Fleet's command. Forces certified as "ready to deploy" are fully prepared to carry out forward presence missions, from humanitarian and peacekeeping operations to full combat in a major regional conflict.

Rapid advancements in command, control, computers, communication and intelligence has created a new domain called C4I. THIRD Fleet has taken on the mission of accelerating technology to the fleet through Fleet Battle Experiments and Sea-Based Battle Labs. The ability to rapidly prototype newly emerging and maturing technologies will help equip the warfighter of the 21st Century.





*Welcome Aboard
United States THIRD Fleet*



*Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey
United States Navy*